

• C o u n t e r p o i s e •

The Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

Volume XLX

January 2009

Number 1



Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon meets every 2nd Thursday at 7:00 pm at the First Lutheran Church of El Cajon. The address is 867 South Lincoln Ave. Next meeting: January 8, 2008 7:00 pm

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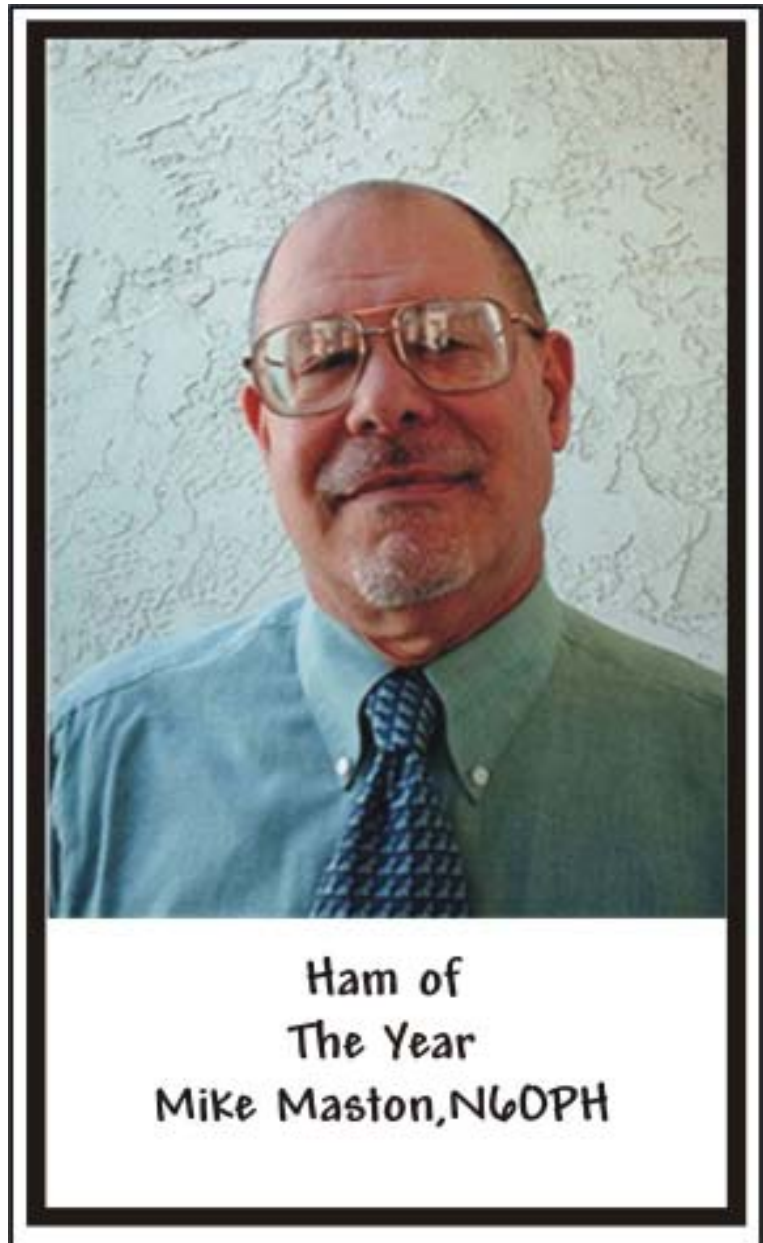
All Official written communication is to be submitted to:

A.R.C.E.C. P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022
The Counterpoise is a publication of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). It is published once monthly and contributions are accepted from officers and members of the club. We also encourage input from members of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon. Opinions expressed are solely that of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). Articles may be submitted either by e-mail or mail to the editor.

Paul Rios at:
WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net or by post
1237 Victor Ave #4, El Cajon, CA 92021
The Deadline is Sunday after the General Meeting.

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon
Web Site: <http://www.wa6bgs.org>

Counterpoise E-Mail address
WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net



Next Meeting

Program: Disaster Preparedness
Speaker: Monica Zech

2009 Officers

President	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Vice-President	KO4QT	Steve Weed	733-2320
Secretary	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
Treasurer	W6GRK	Gary Kushe	562-5391

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Affiliated Clubs	AE6AV	Larry Plummer	460-1818
Instructor	AE6QW	Gordon Shackelford	561-6323
Membership	KC6TBG	Ann Rios	593-9445
Net Manager	KG6TDP	Mike Oberbauer	444-9090
Public Service	N6NKJ	Rich Beisigl	444-5465
Social Chair	KI6JUD	Linda Weed	971-1535
Past President	KG6JCW	Mike "Stogle" Panger	263-4439

2009 Standing Committees

Bylaws	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
Club Attire	K6PKS	Paul Schmidt	733-2284
Counterpoise Editor	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Education	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
Elmer	WA6L	John Graf	368-7413
EOC H2O District	N6NKJ	Rich Beisigl	444-5465
Estate Sales	N6JOJ	Tom Myrick	449-3547
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Prizes	AF6BC	Floyd Lang	697-8655
Public Relations	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
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Technical	W2IRI	Bob Boehme	448-4728
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WA6BGS Trustee	AE6CQ	Michael Martak	562-6477
WAMO	AE6CQ	Michael Martak	562-6477
Web Master	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Welcome	KI6EEL	Bridget Rios	

Staff and Writers

KC6QLS	Paul	Editor
KO4QT	Steve	Vice President
N6OPH	Mike	Meeting Minutes
KI6FIH	Tassy	HAM Spot Light
AE6CQ	Michael	WAMO
W5COM	Tom & Lisie	Jokes
N6NKJ	Rich	Amateur Radio at Large
WA6L	John	Down Below in EC
WA6MHZ	Pat	Crest Radio Museum
KI6EEL	Bridget	Photos

SANTEE DRIVE-IN SWAP MEET

10990 Woodside Ave., North
FOR INFORMATION, CALL 449-SWAP
Ham Radio, Computers, Electronics
ACRES & ACRES OF BARGAINS
1st & 3rd Saturday of the Month
GATES OPEN 6:30 AM

From The President

Paul KC6QLS



Good Bye 2008 and HELLO 2009! Where will 2009 take us? I believe the Club is going down the right path, and we have been very busy in 2008. When the dust settles at the end of this year, we will have participated at CAL Fire, the Del Mar Fair, Field Day, Fire Station 6 Open House, the Mother Goose Parade and anywhere that we were called on in a disaster.

With the state of the economy, things will be tight. I hope we have the funds to do everything we want to do and your donations would be greatly appreciated. Some of our members have lost their jobs, and with future cut backs, there may be more. I do believe when you give it comes back tenfold. Sometimes it is helpful to help out others in the best way you can. Sometimes it could be just a pat on the back or helping them raise that 45 foot tower. After all, this is why most of us got into Amateur Radio to begin with.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate our 2008 HAM of the Year, Mike N6OPH. He filled in for Dan N6ERD when he could not make the meetings.

73

Paul Rios, KC6QLS
President



Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

General Membership Meeting
13 November 2008



The general membership meeting of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon was called to order by the club President Paul, KC6QLS at 1905. At the conclusion of the pledge, visitors were welcomed. Paul also thanked all serving Board Members and Officers for their year's service in 2008.

SECRETARY's report was approved as published in the Counterpoise. Dan was not present this evening, so Mike, N6OPH was asked to compile the minutes.

TREASURER's Report was read by Stogie, KG6JCW. It was approved as read and filed for audit.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Rich, N6NKJ announced that Mike Garrison a Past President of the ARCEC became a silent key last week.

WAMO: Mike, AE6CQ awarded the WAMO certificates. Al Gentz, KA6RLX was presented his award for 800 WAMO contacts worked.

PRESIDENT Paul, KC6QLS gave the Financial Report for the Mother Goose Parade. The budget was a \$250 donation from SANDARC and expenses were \$258.82. Paul donated \$8.82 to the fund and it closed with a zero balance. A committee of three was appointed to count the ballots for the Board of Directors and for "Ham of the Year." Paul showed a video about amateur radio public service from an amateur radio club in Ohio. After the break, the election results were announced by Mike, AE6CQ. The new Board Members are: Ann, KC6TBG; Rich, N6NKJ; Gordon, AF6QW; Mike, KG6TDP; Larry, AE6AV; and Linda, KG6JUD.

The Christmas dinner will be at 1800hrs at the Home Town Buffet on 16 December. At this time, the "Ham of the Year" winner will be named. On 13 November a drill was held with CALFIRE here in San Diego. The grand prize at the Christmas

Party will be a \$200 gift certificate for HRO. The early bird drawing prize will be \$100.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: The Mother Goose Parade has yet to be broadcast on Channel 4. We will be informed when the parade will be aired. The amateur radio display is now at the Rancho San Diego Public Library. It was at the El Cajon Branch Library for the past two months.

VICE PRESIDENT Steve, KO4QT announced the upcoming Christmas meeting. There is no speaker designated yet for the January meeting.

MEMBERSHIP Report: 55 members were present and 1 visitor for this evening's meeting. There is a total membership of 185. Mike, N6OPH reported that the City of San Diego is proposing another restrictive antenna ordinance. SANDARC will respond to the City before 2 January 2009. Also, the DX Club is proposing to hire a land use attorney to respond to the City of San Diego. Mike, N6OPH will testify before the City Council in January when or if needed.

23 May is Wild Land Fire Safety Training.

There being no further business before the general membership, the meeting was adjourned at 2037hrs.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Paul Maston, N6OPH
Recording Secretary for
Dan N6ERD



From The Vice President KO4QT Steve



The program for our January meeting will be "Disaster Preparedness" presented by Monica Zech who is the Public Information Officer for the El Cajon Fire Department.

2008 was a year that won't soon be forgotten by the members of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon. We were affected by theft on two separate occasions. The first was just 2 weeks before Field Day when our Club storage shed was broken into and a large number of items were stolen. The second was about a month before the Mother Goose Parade when the trailer that we were going to use as a float in the Parade was stolen. After the break-in, thanks to the cash donations from Club members as well as the Six Shooters Amateur Radio Club, along with the loan and/or donations of equipment (which included the donation of a generator) from Club members, Field Day was a huge success. As for the trailer, well, the evening we found out it was stolen, I mentioned it on the WAMO net. I was contacted on that same net by a local HAM who offered the use of his trailer for the Parade. I happily accepted the offer and we used the trailer for the Parade.

2008 was also a busy year for the Club. Rain or shine, Tom N6JOJ was at the Swap Meet running our Club booth the first Saturday of every month; we staffed the SANDARC booth at the San Diego County (Del Mar) Fair; we set up a booth in the Kids Best section of the Fair to introduce Kids to HAM Radio; we spent a weekend in the Laguna Mountains operating radios over Field Day; and we had our Annual Club Picnic. Thanks to the efforts of Tom N6TNC, we were given a donation by the U.S. Navy of a 100' tower trailer complete with a Honda generator. We had a training day where Tom WB6RSG trained a 12 person group on how to setup and operate the Tower Trailer. We set up our Tower Trailer and operated our radios during both the El Cajon Fire Department's Open House and the El Cajon Methodist Church Fall Festival. We had our Annual Home Brew Contest. We participated in the Mother Goose Parade, and we had our Annual Christmas Party.

We had some antenna lowering parties too, which I took part in. The first was for John Roessler K6BX who was moving out of his house and into an apartment up north in Livermore. The second was to take down antennas at the home of the late John Cordle KF6XY. John K6BX



Continued on Page 11

WA6BGS Nets

Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Manger
Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Controller
Frito	N6WKB	Wide Open Nets
Axel	KI6RRN	Donut Net

WAMO NETS:

Wednesday and Saturday Nights
8:00 pm local time 7:30 "Checkins"

Tuesday Night Rag Chew net:

8:00 pm

Nets held on club repeaters

WA6BGS Repeaters

RX 147.420 (146.475) 107.2 PL

RX 224.080 – 107.2 PL

RX 445.900 – 107.2 PL

Don't miss it. All members welcome.

New Donut Net

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Day: Monday Night

Mode: FM

Frequency: Club Repeater System

This is an open net and all are invited. Early check-ins will be taken. Bring your Donuts. GOT MILK?

WAMO means Worked All Members Only. The purpose of WAMO is to encourage people to people communication between club members and to publicize the name of the club among fellow amateurs.

Calendar of Events January 2009

Jan.	1:	2009 Membership Dues Due
Jan.	3:	Swap Meet, Santee Drive In, 6:30 am
Jan.	3:	T-Hunt, Grossmont College lot, 6:00 pm
Jan.	6:	Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
Jan.	8:	General Meeting, 7:00 pm
Jan.	17:	Swap Meet, Santee Drive In, 6:30 am
Jan.	17:	T-Hunt, Grossmont College lot, 6:00 pm
Jan.	18:	Counterpoise Dead Line

Upcoming Event Dates

Feb.	20:	Yuma Ham Fest "20th and 21st"
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San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 560-4900 or 1-800-854-6046

The Counterpoise is also online in FULL COLOR. Check it out and the club's website at: www.wa6bgs.org

Get your advanced copy by e-mail. I will send it out in .PDF format the night it goes to print. E-mail me and let me know that you would like a copy. Size of file may be up to 1.5 mb at times.

Change of Address

Moving?

Do not miss an issue of the Counterpoise. Fill out the Change of address form below.

Call _____ WAMO# _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

New Address:

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send to Membership Chairperson:

A.R.C.E.C./ P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

ARCEC Membership Application

Please print clearly, complete all info and return to Membership Chair with your payment:

() Individual Membership \$18.00

() Family Membership \$30.00

Name: _____

Class of License: _____

Other Family Members and Calls: _____

Address: _____

Call: _____ WAMO #: _____

Birthday: _____ Phone _____

Email address: _____

Check One: () New Member () Renewal

() Returning Member

*If you are a returning member, you will keep your original WAMO #. _____

Check One: I want to receive the Counterpoise Newsletter by: () Mail () Email () Website

Check One: I give my permission to publish my info on the Club Roster () Yes () No

If no, state exactly what information you do not want published: _____

Check One: ARRL Member () Yes () No

ARES Member () Yes () No

RACES Member () Yes () No

Would you like to be in the Counterpoise Spotlight? () Yes () No

Would you like to be a member of The East County Response Team? () Yes () No

Mail with payment to:

Membership Chair, ARCEC, P.O. Box 50
El Cajon, CA 92022

Computer Roster Available

Want the roster sent to you via e-mail? Send an e-mail to Ann Rios KC6TBG, and she will send you the database back as an attachment. She uses Excel, but may be able to convert to various formats if asked. Send your request to 619-593-9445 or KC6TBG@cox.net

FUN PAGE

Birthday

January	1	N6LCH	Carl	Palechek
January	2	N6QEK	Steve	Frick
January	3	KE6IQX	Rebecca	Taylor
January	4	KI6FIF	Carl	Cookson
January	5	WA6PTZ	George	Kochel
January	5	KA6TFD	Ken	Steele
January	6	KA6BKR	Tony	Hernandez
January	6	AD6O	Jim	Quinn
January	7	KG6NNU	Bob	Nowak
January	7	WA6LNF	Edward	Redman
January	7	N6WKB	Frito	Samano (L)
January	11	KE6PW	Roger	Brown
January	13	KG6WGN	Brett	Newbould
January	18		Mona	Rios
January	19	N6ERD	Dan	Severance
January	22	KA6OTR	Al	Mercer
January	22	KG6FBV	Calvin	Tyler
January	22		Monica	Zech
January	23	KB9WFS	Brian	Churchwell
January	25	KN6CB	Doug	Konishi
January	27	KG6BWN	Nicholas	Utschig
January	29	WA6PPG	Carl	Ferree
January	29	KB6HEW	Frank	Martin
January	29	K6UMA	Joe	Mc Cormick
January	29	K6KGW	Michael	Koffler
January	30	KF6TFG	Gregg	Potter
January	31	W3NRG	Ed	Sack

Word Search

W U S N O I T A C I N U M M O C
H Q E K U L R M K M E L U M E O
A C A S H M I E Q U Q I D R Q M
N M R M L Z A V S L O O T E Z M
D L C I G E G U K C L F L T Y U
Y O H K N S E W M H U S Z S K N
T G D L I N M I E W S E G A Q I
A I E Z N O W I F E M Z N S H T
L S K D I P H Y N Z V H I I A V
K T Y I A S L D S L W S G D Z M
I I Z Y R E E H Q U D F A D M L
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Z S W F A K D L S T I C S Y T U
M Q E P M D F H W F O M Y E M Q
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O R G A N I Z A T I O N D Q L S
P K Q U I L Q U L K F E I F Z W

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|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CASH | <input type="checkbox"/> ORGANIZATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CERT | <input type="checkbox"/> PREPAREDNESS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> RESCUE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY | <input type="checkbox"/> RESPONSE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISASTER | <input type="checkbox"/> SEARCH |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> STAGING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HANDY TALKIE | <input type="checkbox"/> TOOLS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HAZMAT | <input type="checkbox"/> TRAINING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> INJURED | <input type="checkbox"/> TREATMENT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LOGISTICS | <input type="checkbox"/> TRIAGE |

Brain Thinkers

- 3= W. M. and a B. 3 Wise Man and a Baby
- 8= D. in H. 8 Days in Hanukkah
- 12= D. of C. 12 Days of Christmas
- This Months -----
- 4= S. in a Y.
- 16= Q. in a P.
- 25= P. in a Q.

Last Months Word Search

W Y T K D S J C N W O T E M O H
T S F R H T W T L P H Y D O Y E
K Z W J W F R I E N D S X C E T
S A M T S I R H G K S E Z L R P
E H D X D G S J F Y C W Y K W D
L F H H S H F W S F S R D R A Z
D S T D C N P S K A E F O S J X
N A R W F W O E X S O T O H P Y
A A W O R S H L P H W Y W C I S
C Z X T J K C R T K X T N A H T
D N C D T X T O W A Z X E K S J
F A M I L Y S M Y Z R P K W R S
D W Z M R K C E R F H B H F E X
Y K A M S H J M S C S Y E Q B D
S F P I T A R O C E D X J L M W
A Z H R F Z D H Y F J A T S I D
K T D T H A K U N A H K H F M C

ASK AN ELMER

The question this month is, "Now that I got the HT, what is the best Mobile Unit for me?" After making some calls and reading the feedback, it's pretty much like finding the right HT. I will say people like their mobile radios. The units in this article are just used as an example. There is no intent for you to go out and purchase the radio. Please do more research and you will find other radios very similar in their features.

After talking to a few Hams, this could be a touchy subject. We could talk about this issue until the cows come home. Three different scenarios should help you decide on the best VHF and/or UHF that best fits your needs.

First, is you just want a good 2 meter radio for the road. The Icom IC-V8000 has some good "Road Features." It is the big 75 watts of power to help you hit that repeater over that hill in the next town while on the road. This is very helpful when you are out in the desert "in the middle of nowhere" and need to call for help. Next, is the front firing speaker that has a good tone and sound to it. This eliminates finding a spot for an external speaker and helps minimize the space of the gear in your car. You can also hear it over the road noise and your tunes from your car stereo. This rig runs about \$250 new.

Next, you're a tech kind of person and you like all the bells and whistles you can get. The new FTM-10R/E might do the trick. This small 2 meter and 440 MHz radio is packed with a wide band receiver, Blue Tooth option, FM stereo, and even a audio input. You can even get a motorcycle mounting kit MMB-M11 for your new hog that you got for Christmas. The law states that all Cell phones in the car have to be hands free for the driver, thus Blue Tooth has become the new got to have item. Amateur Radio is at this time exempt from this law, but it's nice to have this feature. The Blue Tooth requires the BH-1 Headset and the BU-1 adapter unit you install in the radio. I talked with one person who has this set up and likes it. You have to use the VOX mode so if you talk to your buddy sitting next to you, you have to turn off the VOX. This radio runs about \$260.

Lastly, you are on the road and move from car to car or you are a walking mobile. You also like all the bells and whistles you can get, and you may like the radio that is "to hit the stores soon", the VX-8R. This 6/2/220/440 radio is reported to have a wide band receiver, Blue Tooth option, FM stereo, and GPS. After you install the

FGPS-7, you will know where you are at all times even when you're lost. Like the FTM-10R/E the Blue Tooth works the same.

In closing, with all the new features out there, you can easily become over whelmed. Sometimes it may help to remember the KISS option if you're not a Techno Ham. Some of the submissions say that in a real emergency, the KISS factor works best!

The question for next month is, "I'm a Technician Class Ham, why should I upgrade?" Please email me your thoughts.

73

Elmer A. Ham

Please submit your thoughts to WA6BGScouterpoise@cox.net and the Elmers will answer with your feedback. Also, please send in any question that you might have.

Information and Resources:

HRO "The Candy Store" <http://www.hamradio.com/>

QRZ <http://www.qrz.com/site.html>

Icom <http://www.icomamerica.com/en/amateur/default.aspx>

Yaesu <http://www.yaesu.com/>

Options: Can be very expensive but are fun to have! Get them before you can't find them or they are discontinued.



The Editor's
Corner
KC6QLS Paul



Editor's Corner

The Ask an Elmer column is getting positive feedback, so with your help I believe it will be around for a while. We are always looking for a column writer. All we ask is it needs to be Amateur Radio related and in a positive manner. If you would like to write something, please send it to me, and I'll see if we can fit it in.

I can't wait to see what Chicken Noodle Soup, Crest Radio, Down Below and Amateur Radio at Large will bring this year. They are always a good read and very informative.

73 Paul Rios, KC6QLS Editor

Public Relations

We got press in 2008. Let's keep the ball rolling. We all have to keep a positive outlook on Amateur Radio in the public eye. The Open House at Fire Station 6 was great. Many Wooden CW keys were made and lots of questions were answered. The Amateur Radio Display at the El Cajon Library was timed just right with the event.

If you have an idea for getting more press, please contact me.

Bee Radio Active! Paul Rios, KC6QLS



Volunteers Needed

Up Coming Events
Speakers and Program Ideas

E-Mail

Address for the Counterpose. Please submit all *Counterpose* Mail to:
WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net

Prize Table Needs Help

Thank you for your contributions to the Prize Table! We still need your Support and Help or it may just end up a thing of the past. Please contact: Floyd Lang AF6BC at 303-6711.

Things to keep in mind

Get on the El Cajon ARC Reflector

To sign up visit:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/elcajonarc/>

You will get the latest news about The Club and things going on in the Ham world.

Quote of the Month

"To be satisfied with a little, is the greatest wisdom; and he that increaseth his riches, increaseth his cares; but a contented mind is a hidden treasure, and trouble findeth it not."

- Akhenaton

JOKE

Why shouldn't you tell a secret around a clock?

Time will tell.

Lisie KI6EEK

Crest Radio Museum

Pat Bunsold, WA6MHZ



Thanks to all for all the kind thoughts and prayers while I had my "vacation" in the Hospital. They patched up a few problems and I am good to go for a while longer. So for all those hoping for the ULTIMATE Estate sale, it's been moved way back. Now that I am out of bed and here at work, it's back to the Collecting and Restoring mode. And what better than to start with a TOUGH one!

This month's radio is a 1935 Philco 89 Cathedral Radio. The classic radio of the Depression years (Last Depression), it covers the Broadcast Band and Police Band. OH, the Police used to use radios in the 1.7-3.0 Megacycle region! Back in Al Capone and the Untouchables era!!!

I picked this up at TRW last month, and paid dearly for it. \$75 in deplorable condition. But I needed another Cathedral after being weasled out of my Philco 60 I restored about this time last year by my Boss. As usual, the grill cloth was shot and I purchased a close replacement from Antique Radio Supply in AZ. Also, nabbed another power cord. That set me back over \$40!

The chassis was removed and it did indeed have 73 years worth of dust and dirt on it. I should have worn a dust mask as I brushed it off. That didn't help my chronic cough! The Philco 89 has a rotating dial drum for a dial and some Clown had glued station call signs up and down the dial. I was able to get those off with water and a tiny brush after considerable scrubbing. No damage to the dial, Phew! The Speaker cone was thrashed as was the Grill cloth, so I repaired the cone with large amounts of nail polish. That is the best repair for a Speaker. Just paint the tears with the clear nail polish and give it many many coats. It fixes the tears wonderfully.

As I removed the tubes for cleaning and safekeeping, I found one tube, a 39/44 had a broken plate cape. To my great relief, the wire coming out of the glass seal was still there. I drilled a small hole in the top of the cap, mixed up some JB Weld and glued the tube cap back on top of the tube. Finally the bare wire was soldered to the tube cap! PHEW! 39/44 tubes are very rare!!!!

This will be a long term restoration project, so don't expect to hear how great it works in this edition. Once again, I will not replace any parts in it unless an exact, 1935 era part can be found to replace it. It is more important to keep the radio AUTHENTIC than to have it work. An example of an incredibly POOR restoration is in the new January QST. They take a venerable WW2 ARC 5, and cut ALL the caps out of it!!!! Sure, some may be bad, but make sure first! The final kluge is chock full of 2008 components with just a ARC-5 shell. That

is a travesty to me. I want the radio Authentic!!! It is better for it to NOT WORK than to violate the radio by putting NEW components in it. I always get in this debate with the other restorers on QRZ. One expert is recapping a Hallicrafters SX-88, my most coveted radio. So it will work fine, sure, but it will be a 1955 radio with 2008 parts. BOGUS!!!!!! If you are a junk collector, DON'T THROW AWAY those boxes of old resistors and capacitors you accumulated over the past 50 years. They are very needed by restorers to fix radios!

So now I must begin the incredibly messy and tedious process of sanding off all the shellac or varnish that is on the case, down to bare wood. My desk at work is covered in dust, much to managements disdain. Once sanded, I will use MINIWAX to put a new color stain coat on it, allowing it to show its true wood beauty. Meanwhile, I have the schematic for the chassis, and it will be carefully brought up. First job will be to measure the caps and insure none are shorted. Then the Electrolytic will be meticulously restored with the Heathkit IT-11 Cap Rejuvenator. Can a 1935 Electrolytic cap be saved? OF COURSE! It just takes time and motivation.. If it is hopeless, another option is to remove the cap guts and install replacement caps inside. It will kind of violate the ORIGINAL PARTS ONLY Rule, but will be undetectable unless I take a Lie Detector test! OK, enough typing, back to work. Look for progress reports in a future Counterpoise!

73 and Happy New YEAR!!!!

Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ
Curator
Crest Radio Museum



Photos on page 12

Down Below in El Cajon Life Below 50 MHz

John Graf, WA6L



The HF Go-Kit

The term "Go Kit" entered the Ham Radio lexicon a few years ago. It usually refers to a self-contained portable radio and power supply that you would "Grab and Go" as you head out to support emergency communications. There are some ingenious designs out there and building such a kit is worthwhile endeavor if you are involved in EMCOM.

But, I got to thinking. What about an HF Go-Kit? What would that involve? Why would you want to? This article attempts to answer those questions. It is not an exhaustive treatment of the subject, but hopefully it will start you thinking about building such a kit.

Generally speaking, HF does not play a large role in local EMCOM support. Most of the support provided during emergencies and during events revolves around VHF/UHF. But that is not to say that HF can't save lives.

Recently there was a news flurry about a wilderness camper in Oregon whose life was saved when he used HF to contact a Ham hundred of miles away in Montana. Unable to hike out due to a broken leg, he relayed his coordinates and guided search and rescue to his location. Try that with a VHF radio!

There are also numerous cases over the last few years of small boats at sea who have been helped through Amateur Radio. Or, how about checking in to a traffic net to relay emergency (or health and welfare) traffic?

But emergency use aside, why else would you carry an HF Go-Kit? Well, how about being able to operate HF from a vacation spot? Or taking you HF rig hiking with you? Or operating portable during Field Day? As someone who loves HF, I can think of a dozen fun-filled uses for such a kit.

So with these thoughts in mind, I built my kit. The entire rig; including antenna, radio, key, headset, and power source fits easily into a backpack (or tightly into a fanny pack) and weighs no more than 3 pounds. I recently tested it in my driveway by throwing the antenna into a tree and was able to make several contacts, including one to Alberta, where the other operator was running 2 watts into a dipole!

The Rig: For my rig, I chose the Elecraft KX1 (same rig that the Oregon backpacker used). It is about the size of a paperback book and weighs in at 11 ounces. Mine covers the 20, 30, and 40 meter bands with up to 4 watts out on CW. 80 meters is an available option. It can also receive SSB and shortwave broadcasts. The KX1 includes a superhet receiver with variable-passband crystal filter, RIT, S-meter, DDS VFO w/3 tuning rates, 3-digit display, memory keyer, battery voltage monitor, and full QSK.

There are many other choices out there for a portable rig. Some are smaller and lighter yet, but with fewer features than the KX1. Others will include SSB transmission, but are usually heavier and require more power. To me, the KX1 was the best compromise, but it is certainly not the only answer.

The Power: This is arguably the most important and difficult decision when building your Go-Kit. Do you want to carry a heavy battery? Does your rig have a built-in battery? How long will you be able to operate without recharging? How much power out do you get with added voltage?

I chose a two-pronged approach to the power problem. First, I modified the KX1 to take Lithium Ion rechargeable batteries. This gave me more power out (3 watts) than the standard alkaline batteries, and allowed me to recharge and reuse the batteries. The cost? I lost some operating time, but I can still get an easy six hours out of the internal batteries.

Secondly, I purchased a couple of rechargeable 12V Li-Ion power packs from eBay. These are the size of a pack of cigarettes, weigh only a few ounces, and are rated at 1.5 amp-hours. They will give me an additional six ours of operation for every one that I throw into the backpack.

Are there other options? Of course – you can carry a portable solar panel and you can use a variety of other available batteries. Once again, it comes down to picking a solution that will minimize weight while maximizing your operating time.

The Antenna: I am fortunate that the KX1 has a built-in antenna tuner. It does not have a very large tuning range, but it give me a lot of flexibility in antenna selection. I built my antenna from two Radio Shack shortwave antennas (RS# 278-1374A). These are no longer sold by Radio Shack but they are still available from other sources on the web. Each of these consists of 23' of antenna wire on a very small spool with built-in rewinder. I took 4' off of one spool and soldered it



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Down Below *Continued*

to the other. Then I soldered bayonet connectors on each. So I have a 27' antenna that goes into a tree, and a 19' counterpoise that goes along the ground. They both plug into a bayonet-to-BNC connector that goes on the KX1.

The KX1 has no problem tuning this on each band and I get some pretty amazing results from such a simple wire antenna. It goes up and down in minutes and works!

Once again, you can use your imagination to come up with a different antenna. I think a dipole might be more effective than my vertical, but it may be more difficult to pack and carry. There are also any number of commercially made ultra-portable HF antennas. The Buddipole is a good example. These may have a number of advantages over my antenna, but they also cost a whole lot more!

The Rest of it: CW keys can be quite heavy. I went with the KX1 built-in key as it only weighs about an ounce, and uses the rig chassis for stability. The keying is not half bad. For earphones, I bought a pair of "ear buds" for about \$10 that work fine and weigh next to nothing. This particular set also comes on a small spool about the same size as my antenna spool. Finally, I threw in an ARRL mini-logbook. The whole kit is well under 3 lbs.

So far my kit has only been deployed at home, where it worked just fine. However, I have a lot of plans for this little rig when the weather gets warmer. I will be throwing this kit into my saddlebag and riding Sam the Wonderhorse out to see some of the many mountain tops in San Diego. I also plan to use it in some contests, where you get bonus points for operating remotely. I may even use it to activate some nearby IOTA locations.

The possibilities are endless, the costs are reasonable, and the effectiveness is limited only by your imagination. I would love to hear from anyone who comes up with their own HF Go-Kit. In the meantime, don't forget that Ham Radio is a contact sport – so go make some contacts!

73,

John, WA6L

From The Vice-President Continued

donated to the Club a two element tri-band beam (which we used at the Open House and the Fall Festival), and a solar panel complete with voltage regulator and a deep cycle battery. The battery was dead but the solar panel works great. We also received a donation of a three element tri-band beam from John KF6XY's daughter, Becky. It needs some work, but we'll have it up and running by Field Day.

I want to give a special thanks to all those who gave presentations at our Club meetings this past year. You kept our meetings interesting.

There are so many of you who gave your time and energy to the Club over the past year. Whether you were participating in a Net, making wooden Morse code keys, working a booth at an event, setting up antennas, working on a Tower team, providing communications for an event, hauling equipment to and from our Field Day site, cooking and making coffee, making Kid's eyes light up when they heard their name on the radio, helping out at the Swap Meet, Elmering other HAM's, collecting dues and maintaining rosters, running the prize table, administering exams as a VE, putting chairs away after a meeting, teaching others to T-hunt, teaching upgrade classes, participating in Red Flag Patrol, working on the Parade Float or serving on the Club Executive Committee, I want to thank you, and all of you that I forgot to mention, for making this the "Radio Active" Club that it is.

I would like to congratulate our 2008 HAM of the Year, Mike N6OPH. Thank you Mike for all you do for the Club as well as the work you do for the entire Amateur Radio community in San Diego.

In closing, I'd like to say thank you to our Club President Paul KC6QLS for his continued leadership, support and dedication to the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon. Paul, your countless hours of service to the Club are appreciated.

I hope you all had a safe and happy holiday season.

73 and I'll see you at the meeting.

Steve KO4QT



Amateur Radio At Large

From Rich N6NKJ



A very Happy New Year to all, and I hope all of you received everything you asked Santa to bring you.

Thank you for re-electing me to our club's Board of Directors. I want all of you to know that I, and the other Board members, take the responsibility you have given us very seriously; thank you.

I am going to dedicate this article to one of my mentors and Elmers. As I told you at our last club meeting, one of my best friends past away on December 2, 2008. Michael Garrison, ex KG6VP, later, AC7CK, was not only my friend, but also my mentor and Elmer, who along with my late father-in-law Dave Cathers, NV5H and John Roessler, ex KB6WB, now K6BX, were the reason I became a amateur radio operator in 1985. Although my late father-in-law lived in Oklahoma, he would call me and offer his encouragement, but it was Mike and John who were the ones who were never too busy to help me or answer my incessant questions that all of us newbies have.

Mike owned a locksmith shop just outside the El Cajon city limits, and I would go spend a lot of time at his shop, asking a lot of questions, which he never got tired of answering. But Mike was like that. He really liked people and would go out of his way to help anyone if he could. He would call me from time to time to go help out another Ham, new or old with whatever they needed help with. One time there was this elderly man who needed help with installing or moving an antenna, so Mike called me and another Ham to help him out. It took us a couple of days to do this because Mike would have to out on a service call; but we got it done. The thing I remember most about this event is this man had been a Ham for twenty five or thirty years, and HE NEVER attached a microphone to his HF radio; he was a first class CW operator only.

Whenever I upgraded, Mike was there to encourage me. I was studying for my advanced class license, and I told him that I heard this was, next to the Extra Class license, the hardest of all

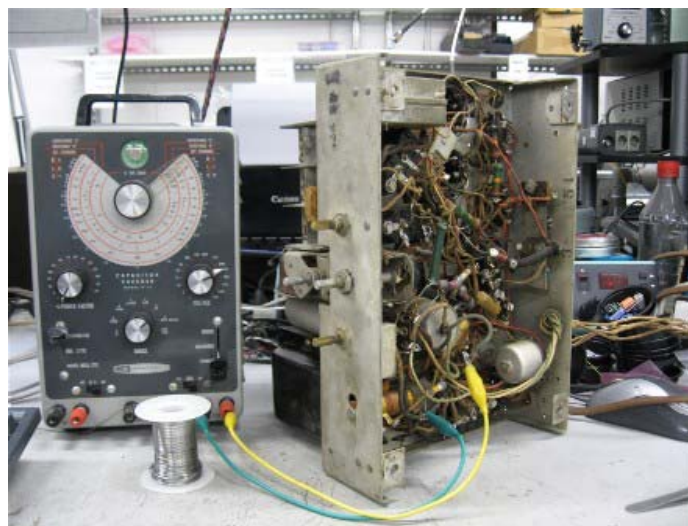
tests. I told him I did not think I would pass it, but he just kept after me to study and told me to come over to his place so he could help me by reading the questions and having me try to give him the right answers. Before I took my test, I once again told Mike I WAS sure I was not going to pass, and he bet me a steak dinner that I would pass, and the first thing I did after taking the test was to go over to Mike's shop and tell him I had passed. The next Saturday morning, I met him and some other Hams at a cafe where I gladly bought him his breakfast. One other time when I had just passed my general test, he then said to me "now, the best DX is in the advanced portion of the HF bands." And that is why I wanted to get my advance license. Mike started having health problems while he still lived here, and unfortunately, they just got worse after he and his wife Darlene moved to Missoula Montana, which in the end, is where he passed away. Rest in Peace my friend, you will be missed by many of us who knew you.

I would also like to thank all of you who have helped me in 2008 with the VIP Red Flag Patrol or other things I needed help with.

And at this time of year, I would ask all of you to remember our brave men and women of our U.S. military, who at this moment, are far away from home and loved ones, protecting all of us.

73's and 88's.
Rich, N6NKJ

Photo from CREST Museum



Membership Report

Ann KC6TBG



Thank you to all who participated in the 2009 Membership Drive. All membership dues for 2009 are due now and all will expire on December 31, 2009.

If you have not already paid your ARCEC Membership Dues for 2009, please do so as soon as possible so that the 2009 Budget can be done. If you have any questions about your dues, please email me at kc6tbg@cox.net or see me at the meeting.

The 2009 ARCEC Roster will be available at the February 2009 meeting. If you do not wish to be published on the 2009 ARCEC Roster, please email me at kc6tbg@cox.net regarding what information you do not want published.

The 2009 ARCEC Roster is for club use only. However, please do not use this club roster to contact club members at the telephone numbers and addresses listed on the roster for the purpose of working a WAMO. The Rules for working WAMO are listed on the website and must be followed in order to receive WAMO Certificates. Also, copies of the WAMO Rules are available at club meetings.

73, Ann, KC6TBG

For new members who join during the year, the dues for the year they join will be prorated through December 31st of the year they join, and the next years dues will be due on December 31st of the year they join. The Dues Payment Schedule will be as follows:

Individual Dues Membership:

\$18.00 per year(\$1.50 per month):

January	\$ 18.00	July	\$ 9.00
February	\$ 16.50	August	\$ 7.50
March	\$ 15.00	September	\$ 6.00
April	\$ 13.50	October	\$ 4.50
May	\$ 12.00	November	\$ 3.00
June	\$ 10.50	December	\$ 1.50 *

*plus \$18.00 for the following year

Family Dues Membership:

\$30.00 per year (\$2.50 per month):

January	\$ 30.00	July	\$ 15.00
February	\$ 27.50	August	\$ 12.50
March	\$ 25.00	September	\$10.00
April	\$ 22.50	October	\$ 7.50
May	\$ 20.00	November	\$ 5.00
June	\$ 17.50	December	\$ 2.50 *

*plus \$30.00 for the following year

Ann, KC6TBG
Membership Chair



Marco Thorne, KF6SXZ
Won the \$100.00 Membership Drive



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Christmas Dinner Photos



Christmas Dinner Photos



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VEC Testing Sites

1 st Saturday:	El Cajon 10:00 am First Lutheran Church of EC 867 South Lincoln Ave.
2 nd Saturday:	Carlsbad 9:30 am Carlsbad Safety Center Orion Way Carlsbad
3 rd Saturday:	North Park 10:00 am North Park Recreation Center 4044 Idaho Street San Diego
4 th Saturday:	Chula Vista 8:30 am Fire Station #7 1640 Santa Venetia Chula Vista
5 th or last Saturday:	Escondido 9:00 am LDS Church 1917 East Washington St.

To make advance reservations or to find out more info
from the site captain, please call 465-EXAM (3926)